

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 5, please replace the paragraph which begins with line 10 and ends with line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the invention, the air bag puncture device 18 acts to puncture and partially deflate the inflating air bag ~~42~~ 46 as it reaches the vehicle occupant 10. As a result, the outer portions of the inflating air bag 46 are greatly softened so as to minimize injury to the occupant 10. As the air bag 46 inflates, it strikes the outer end ~~40~~ 44 of the cylindrical collar 34. Thereafter, the collar 34 slides along the cutting device 26 against the resistance of the coil spring 36. Eventually, the collar 34 reaches the position shown in Figure 5 in which the serrated outer end 28 of the cutting device 26 protrudes beyond the outer end ~~40~~ 44 of the collar 34 and punctures the surface of the air bag 46. When this occurs, the air bag 46 begins to deflate.

On page 9, please replace the ABSTRACT with the following amended ABSTRACT:

An air bag puncture device extends from the torso of a vehicle occupant and has a pointed outer end. Upon inflation of an air bag against the torso of the occupant, the device punctures the air bag to soften the outer surface of the air bag and thereby prevent injury to the occupant. The puncture device is mounted on a resilient clip for removable mounting to the shoulder harness of a vehicle seat belt system and comprises a cylindrical cutting device having a serrated outer end opposite the resilient clip for puncturing the inflating air bag. A spring-loaded hollow cylindrical collar which normally shields ~~is slidably mounted on the cylindrical cutting device and normally extends beyond the serrated outer end of the cutting device~~ is pushed out of the way by the inflating air bag, allowing the

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~~serrated outer end of the cutting device to puncture the bag in controlled fashion. to prevent unwanted injury to the vehicle occupants. However, upon inflation of the air bag, the bag pushes the hollow cylindrical collar along the cutting device, against the resistance of a coil spring disposed between the hollow cylindrical collar and the resilient clip, until the serrated outer end of the cutting device protrudes from the cylindrical collar and punctures the air bag so as provide a controlled amount of deflation of the air bag. The coil spring defines a predetermined amount of force by the inflating bag which is necessary before the bag is punctured. As the bag is punctured, escaping gas therefrom is vented through the hollow interior of the cutting device and out through a venting slot in the cutting device and a vent hole in the cylindrical collar.~~